

REMARKS

Claims 11-21 are pending; claims 11-13, 16-18 and 21 stand rejected. Claims 14, 15, 19 and 20 are objected to; all pending claims are believed allowable in view of the amendment to independent claim 21.

The attached sheet of drawings include changes to Figs. 5B and 5D to show three rows of lower terminals, with figure placement for viewing pages in a vertical orientation.

From the connector of independent claim 21, please note that each ground contact has a single contact portion and that, at a first end of the connector, two signal contacts and the single contact portion are located at three apexes of an isosceles triangle, respectively. With this structure, each ground contact can be designed to have a width relatively narrow in a row direction because the contact portion is single. Therefore, it is readily possible to place the contact sets with the high density in the row direction as illustrated in Figs. 1B and 7B. In the connector, each ground contact may be made to have a shape which is similar to that of each signal contact.

Fogg et al. discloses a connector comprising plural contact sets at a first end thereof. Each of the contact sets comprises two of signal contacts 8 and one of ground contacts 9. Each ground contact has at the first end two contact portions 9a facing the signal contacts, respectively. Consequently, each ground contact has a width relatively wide. In fact, the width of each ground contact is substantially equal to a width of a combination of the two signal contacts having a space left therebetween. Therefore, it is difficult to place the contact sets with the high density. At any rate, either of two contact portions 9a does not located at any one of the three apexes of an isosceles triangle. We therefore believe that the claim 21 is not anticipated by Fogg et al and should be allowed.

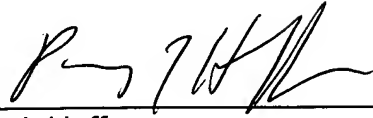
If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of pending claims 11-21 and allowance of this case.

Application Serial No. 10/090,956
Office Action dated 6/10/04
Reply to O.A. dated 9/10/04

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

9-10-04

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Perry J. Hoffman', written over a horizontal line.

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings include changes to Figs. 5B and 5D to show three rows of lower terminals, with figure placement for viewing pages in a vertical orientation. This sheet, which includes Figs. 5A and 5C, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 5A-5D.

Attachments: Replacement and Annotated Sheets

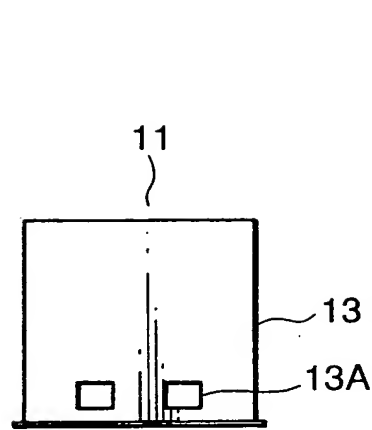


FIG. 5A

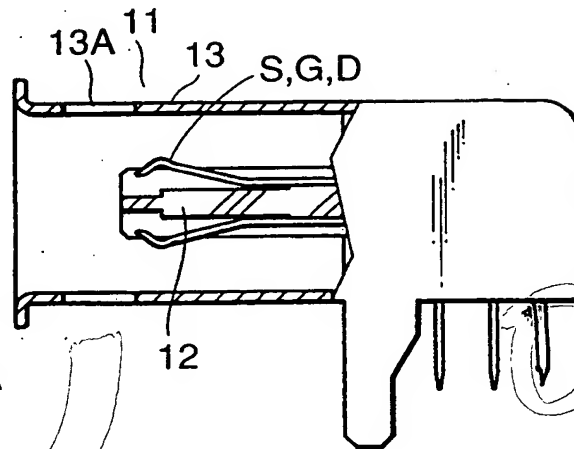


FIG. 5B

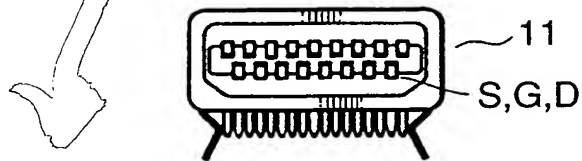


FIG. 5C

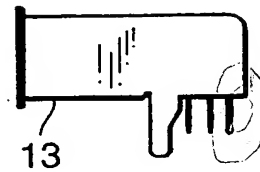


FIG. 5D